

IT'S HOT OUTSIDE

PASTOR STEVE'S Wednesday Devotional 8-7-19

Have you noticed the sun this week? We are showered with warmth and light and we are not wet. We have a "lavish" amount of sun. How great is the sunshine and how great is the love of God? It is the nature of the sun to shine, to provide warmth and light. And it is the nature of God to love us. We are free to go outside and enjoy the sun or we can choose to get away from the sun—we stay inside and miss the sun—but we do not keep the sun from shining just because we put ourselves in a place where it cannot reach us. Is the same with God's love. We can reject it, hide from it but the truth is that God keeps on loving us. No matter what! God loves! And because God loves us, a relationship with God is possible and we are called children of God!

I John 3:1 *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

We who are believers who have been "born of" God know HOW GREAT is the love of the Father. The Greek word: "how great" is potapen; it speaks of something that comes from another country or that is so exotic that it is beyond what has been experienced.

We can rewrite the sentence to read: Behold, what exotic love the Father has poured on us. In other words, the love of God comes from another country! It is so different it seems foreign to the human race. And God's GREAT love has been lavished on us or poured out on us like a never-ending waterfall of crystal-clear water.

And to top it all we are CHILDREN OF GOD! This is "for real" that we are HIS children! Our Lord is so Great that He has brought believers into the loving, intimate relationship of children with their Father. BUT being God's children separates us from the world. We are strangers, as though the world does not know or recognize us. The world cannot know us because it did not know God.

The world does not really desire to know God. The world has refused to recognize Jesus Christ as God's Son (John 1:10; 15:18-19). If this is true how can we expect the world to understand our special relationship with God as his children? There is nothing that can compare to what we have in Christ. The fact is God loves us SO MUCH that He calls us His children. We are part of His family RIGHT NOW and not sometime in the distant future.

God's Warmest Blessings!
Pastor Steve

